

ON PAGE

A1

NEW YORK TIMES

31 March 1987

Woman Who Seduced Marine: A Stylish Presence

J By PHILIP TAUBMAN

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, March 30 — The Soviet woman who lured a Marine Corps guard into a spying scheme left some indelible memories at the United States Embassy.

Tall at about 5 feet 9 inches, with shoulder-length brown hair and striking gray eyes, the woman, Violetta Seina, stood out at embassy social func-



Violetta Seina in an ID photo supplied by the Marines to a lawyer for Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree. The holes were left by staples.

tions in fashionable attire, Americans and Russians who know her said today.

"Violetta was a presence," an American said.

She worked for the embassy from late 1984 to early 1986, first as a receptionist at Spaso House, the ambassador's residence, then as a secretary in the embassy office that clears household goods through customs for diplomats.

Miss Seina, who is now 26 years old, was dismissed as part of a general cut-back of Soviet employees by the United States that preceded the Soviet Government's own decision to remove all Soviet employees from the embassy later in 1986. The Government routinely assigns Soviet employees as service workers to foreign embassies and foreign residents here.

Embassy Bars Information

The American Embassy declined to provide information about Miss Seina.

"We have nothing to say," a spokesman, Philippe Duchateau, said.

After leaving the United States Embassy, Miss Seina worked as a secretary at the Irish Embassy, but left that job recently, an Irish diplomat said.

American investigators have said the spy case first came to the Government's attention in December when Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree, a Marine guard at the embassy from September 1984 to March 1986, reported that he had had an affair with Miss Seina.

Another Marine guard, Cpl. Arnold Bracy, recently told investigators that

he and Sergeant Lonetree, working together, had repeatedly allowed two Soviet agents into the embassy at night and let them inspect sensitive areas, including the communications center.

According to various press reports, Sergeant Bracy had an affair with an embassy employee who worked as a cook.

Soviet authorities declined to say whether Miss Seina was currently employed or where she lived.

One official said she was still associated with the Foreign Ministry's Administration for Services to the Diplomatic Corps, which serves foreign residents' needs.

Two Russians who worked with Miss Seina at the United States Embassy said they had run into her recently at the service administration's headquarters on Kropotkin Street.

"She looked very happy," one of them said.

Five Russians, part of the contingent that was withdrawn from the embassy in October, discussed her in separate interviews today.

They described her as a self-contained person who was both admired and envied because of attractive appearance and fashionable clothing.

The Russians and several Americans said Miss Seina had attended two Marine Corps balls, an annual tradition at Spaso House, and had been invited periodically to Marine parties at the embassy.

"I remember her well at one of the balls, standing at the edge of the dance floor in a lovely dress, looking like a model," an American diplomat said.

Sergeant Lonetree, according to the interrogation documents, said he first met Miss Seina by chance in a subway station in September 1985. A month later, another chance meeting at the same station led to an extended conversation, he said.

He said that Miss Seina "said she was going home but continued to talk with me after missing her train stop."

"We got off together at a later stop and began a long walk together talking about various subjects, including American movies, books, food, likes and dislikes, etc.," the interrogation record said.

"She asked me questions about my family background, life in America and how I liked living in Moscow. We walked and talked for about two hours, after which she went home and I returned to the embassy. We agreed to see each other again. I suggested to her that she should try to come to some of the parties that are held in the embassy or other official establishments."

Sergeant Lonetree said he saw her again in November at a Marine Corps ball.

It is generally assumed among Western residents that the Soviet employees assigned to them by the Foreign Ministry are expected to make reports about their workplaces.

Until last October, the American Embassy employed nearly 200 Soviet workers for a variety of chores, including driving, translating, cooking and booking travel and entertainment tickets.

The embassy limited their access to offices that were not involved in secret work, but some of the Russians like Miss Seina were free to mingle with Americans at work and at social functions. It seems not to have been unusual for Soviet staff members to be invited to such functions.

Although the Marine guards have been discouraged from mixing with Russians, the embassy is said to have made a distinction between mixing with Soviet staff members at the embassy, which was permitted, and mixing with Russians outside the embassy.